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INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 005234

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SUBJECT: MFA DG LIU PROTESTS NEWS REPORT OF HARPOON MISSILE  
SALE TO TAIWAN

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Dan Piccuta. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

11. (C) Citing an Agence France Press news report that the United States planned to sell sixty Harpoon missiles to Taiwan, Director General Liu Jie Yi of the Chinese MFA,s Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs reiterated China,s opposition to U.S. military weapons sales to Taiwan during a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Mission on August 19. DG Liu described the current period in Taiwan as &highly risky8 and said that Taiwan &is stepping up its secession activities8. He added that he hopes that the United States will not send any &wrong signals8 to Taiwan by engaging in any &official contacts8, which would "make the situation even more tense and volatile8.

12. (C) The DCM agreed to report China,s concerns to Washington and expressed understanding that it is a sensitive time during which all involved must try to reduce tensions across the Straits. He noted that a reduction in military deployments on the Mainland will help to reduce these tensions.

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